

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK STATISTICS, MARCH 1956.

GENERAL. Particulars for the year ended March 1956, subject to slight revision, are shown in the following paragraphs with those for 1955 in parentheses. It will be seen that sheep flocks have increased by 767,732 and cattle herds by 42,238, a total grazing equivalent of over 1,000,000 sheep. The sheep and cattle totals exceeded the previous records of 1955, as also did the beef cattle totals but the dairy cattle numbers were less than in the previous year and also less than they were in the years 1948 to 1950. A large increase in the number of lambs marked together with decreased slaughterings contributed to the increase in the sheep flocks. For cattle, the total number of calves and the number of beef calves were records but the number of dairy calves was less than in 1955 and in 1947 to 1949. Since 1945-46, the number of sheep has increased from 6,786,538 to 13,584,867 and cattle from 374,096 to 566,055.

SHEEP. 13,584,867 (12,817,135) an increase of 767,732 on the previous year and an increase of 6,798,329 on the 6,786,538 for the drought year 1946 and 3,214,302 more than the record pre-drought figure of 10,370,565 for 1943. 3,433,643 (3,389,864) wethers; 169,841 (163,286) rams, 2,906,277 (2,592,955) lambs, 6,324,510 (5,886,555) breeding and 750,596 (784,475) other ewes were recorded.

BREEDS OF SHEEP. Particulars of breeds of sheep are collected only every third year. 1956 figures compared with 1953 are:- Merino 11,481,919 (10,135,154), Corriedale 756,676 (698,047), Romney Marsh 34,277 (39,705), Polwarth 39,186 (24,248), Dorset Horn 35,428 (23,086), Leicester Border 19,017 (11,492), Suffolk 13,967 (7,133), Southdown 4,544 (4,284), Other and unspecified pure breeds 7,054 (10,777), Merino Comeback 280,497 (209,144) and Crossbred 912,302 (873,444).

LAMBING 1955. 5,654,541 (5,242,173) ewes were mated and 4,439,656 (4,014,794) lambs were marked, giving a lambing percentage of 78.51 (76.59). The numbers of ewes mated and lambs marked exceeded the records registered in the previous year, but the percentage of 78.51 was slightly below the record of 78.69 for 1917.

LAMBING 1956. 6,223,185 (5,788,765) ewes were reported to have been mated or intended to be mated for lambing during 1956 (1955). 4,615,319 (4,346,841) to merino, corriedale or polwarth rams and 1,607,866 (1,441,924) to rams of other breeds.

WOOL-CLIP. 14,484,255 (13,643,654) sheep and lambs were reported to have been shorn, the total clip including crutchings, etc. being 158,182,120 (139,675,408) lbs. The total wool production for the State including wool fellmongered and wool on skins exported, would be 174,000,000 (154,000,000) lbs. The total wool production is valued at approximately £38,400,000 (£41,600,000). The average price per lb. for greasy wool at the Adelaide Sales was 53.65 d. (65.68 d.).

CATTLE. All kinds 566,055 (523,817) increase 42,238 on the record of the previous year. Dairying cows 195,039 (199,275) were classified as follows - in milk 102,507 (109,379) dry 63,358 (60,443) and springing heifers 29,174 (29,453). Other cattle included other dairy heifers 18,043 (17,607) dairy calves 42,416 (43,259) dairy bulls 8,805 (8,780) beef cows and heifers 144,397 (118,929) beef calves 73,079 (61,702) beef bulls 5,771 (5,183) and other beef cattle 78,505 (69,082). Total dairying cattle 264,303 (268,921) beef cattle 301,752 (254,896).

DAIRY PRODUCTION. Provisional figures for the year ended June, 1956 are as follows: Butter 19,550,000 (19,497,625) lbs., cheese 28,300,000 (29,346,931) lbs. and Bacon and Ham 7,700,000 (7,254,391) lbs. Grand total milk production was estimated to be 90,800,000 (91,500,000) gallons. The record was 93,500,000 in 1946-47. During recent years the average milk production per cow in milk and dry has been over 500 gallons.

HORSES. 44,470 (48,943) of which foals were 2,216 (2,095) draught 10,789 (13,694) and other 31,465 (33,154). The number of horses is only about 22% of the number 200,870 in 1936 and is the lowest number since 1859. The maximum number was 283,641 in 1913.

PIGS. 72,920 (84,502) of which there were 1,957 (2,213) boars, 10,778 (12,866) breeding sows, all other 60,185 (69,423). The number of pigs varies from year to year but in recent years has been lower than 10 to 20 years ago, the maximum number being 190,068 in 1940.

GOYDER'S LINE AND LIVESTOCK. Outside Goyder's Line there were 3,525,619 (3,217,578) sheep, 188,331 (159,651) cattle and 17,318 (18,539) horses while inside there were 10,059,248 (9,599,557) sheep, 377,724 (364,166) cattle and 27,152 (30,404) horses. During the last 20 years there have been only slight variations in the percentages of livestock outside and inside the line except that the percentage of horses outside is increasing. The percentages outside for 1956 were sheep 25.95 (25.10), cattle, 33.27 (30.48), horses 38.94 (37.88).

SLAUGHTERINGS. The approximate slaughterings for year ended June 1956, with actual figures for 1955 are - sheep 1,265,000 (1,351,500); lambs 1,135,000 (1,447,427); cattle and calves 232,000 (232,892) and pigs 135,000 (136,281).

MORTALITY LOSSES, ETC. The reported losses from drought and all other causes were:- Sheep and marked lambs 556,727 (539,801), cattle and calves 17,972 (17,042), horses 2,230 (3,115) and pigs 5,469 (6,281).

LIVESTOCK AS AT MARCH 31ST 1956 COMPARED WITH  
MARCH 31ST 1955.

|                  | SHEEP      |            | CATTLE  |         | HORSES | PIGS    |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
|                  | 1956       | 1955       | 1956    | 1955    | 1956   | 1956    |
| Central          | 3,046,000  | 2,767,460  | 165,117 | 156,537 | 12,528 | 34,267  |
| Lower North      | 1,998,750  | 1,925,360  | 34,181  | 33,922  | 4,652  | 14,776  |
| Upper North      | 1,134,176  | 1,067,237  | 17,918  | 16,571  | 3,136  | 2,641   |
| South Eastern    | 2,937,576  | 2,917,946  | 148,828 | 145,959 | 5,497  | 4,991   |
| Western          | 2,166,638  | 2,027,385  | 15,393  | 16,005  | 4,438  | 8,324   |
| Murray Mallee    | 1,168,543  | 1,162,488  | 27,585  | 26,112  | 3,031  | 7,882   |
| Total Counties   | 12,451,683 | 11,867,876 | 409,020 | 395,106 | 33,282 | 72,881  |
| Outside Counties | 1,133,184  | 949,259    | 157,035 | 128,711 | 11,188 | 39      |
| Total State      | 13,584,867 | 12,817,135 | 566,055 | 523,817 | 44,470 | 72,920  |
| Increase         | 767,732    | 978,891    | 42,238  | 32,872  | -4,473 | -11,582 |

The following are the increases for the last 6 years in districts where there has been increased development:- Coonalpyn Downs, Sheep 235,000 to 549,000, Cattle 5,600 to 14,500; Kangaroo Island, Sheep 111,000 to 253,000, Cattle 1,600 to 4,400; County Grey, Sheep 694,000 to 1,035,000, Cattle 71,750 to 87,300; and County Flinders, Sheep 300,000 to 472,000, Cattle 2,600 to 4,400.

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7th August, 1956.